Dublin, Friday, July 9th 1852

My dear Miss Watson,

Your letter of July 1st (Paris) was forwarded to me from Bristol by this day's post. Having little time for writing a ~~long~~ letter, I will at once begin — perhaps end — with the business part of what I have to say.

The statement you give of Miss O'Reilly's case, is precisely that I like to have from the friends of a patient, — a clear description of all they know of the symptoms of the complaint, with no theories of the disease, & no criticisms of any past treatment.

Miss O'R's disease is certainly an ~~usual~~ unusual one, as far as I can judge without seeing her. The great matter to be considered is, if the disorder be a malignant one, (by which I mean one of a cancerous nature or of a description which defies remedies, & which will return if all the diseased parts as far as they are within reach can be removed.) If such be the state of things, the preservation of life is not to be looked for.

Wherever, a morbid, local condition alone quit, even tho' slighter operations have failed, the removal of the eye may restore health & comfort – Not long since a poor Irishman came to our Dispensary suffering intense pain from an injury to one eye, where all sight was destroyed, & it was probable some iron, which inflicted the original injury, remained in the ball. Slighter operations failed of relief: then we gave chloroform, – ~~the~~ my nephew extirpated the eye without the patient's feeling it: he never had a pain after, & was well in a week.

This case I mention to show the resources which are available.

With respect to Miss O'Reilly you may feel assured that the best attention of myself & of Mr Pritchard, & any other aid or appliances that may be of use, shall be cheerfully devoted to her. As *your* friend she & her family need feel no scruple at our services being *gratuitous*, which you will give them to understand in such a manner as you will know to be most pleasant to their feelings. Of course there can be no reason why I should necessarily have any communication with Mr. Seitel, unless any benefit wd. result to Miss O'Reilly, which I do not contemplate. We do not know yet when we shall be at home for a permanence, probably not till after the first week in August. But were it more convenient to your friends to go earlier to Bristol, [illegible] arrange with Mr Prichard about seeing Miss O.R. & communicating with me respecting her. If he saw her, I should feel quite as satisfied with his report of the case, as if I saw it myself.

And now I must tell you in a word what the simple dating of my letter will not say — anything as to our locality.

We dashed off ~~fr~~ from home last Monday afternoon, — I sneaking off to the railway like a thief, to drive there, lest if I waited at home till 2 some patient might call & stop me. Kate Parker came in a train from Taunton & went on with us as far as to Birmingham at 3 p.m. We got to Bangor that night, — steamed thro' the tubular Bridge over the Menai Straits on Tuesday evening, embarked at Holyhead in a steamer, at 6½ p.m., & had a pleasant passage to Kingstown where Mr Webb met us at 11 p.m., & took us by railway (6 miles) to Great Brunswick St, where Mrs Webb & Miss Pease waited to greet us. Yesterday we went to a beautiful sea side retirement, & spent a delightful day with Mrs Edmundson, & her sister Eliza Wigham of Edinburgh. You may judge what talk we had. A letter from Saml. May ~~forwarded~~ to me by post from Bristol dated June 13 — This we read in concert for it was very interesting, together with one from Edwd. Mathews giving an account of a meeting he held on Monday last in the presence of Scoble, Henson & other Philistines engaged in the Dawn Canada Schools affair (Geo. Thompson one) I fear very unfair advantage was taken of the E.M. who is utterly incompetent to contend with unscrupulous & dishonest men — Geo. Thompson has shown much hostility to W. Brown influenced probably by Scoble. — There is no doubt that he has tried to sacrifice W.W. to Scoble's & Henson's interests: Brown is not however to be thus guillotined —

The papers this morning have brought an account of Geo. Thompson's defeat — a complete one — I felt no confidence in the reports I heard in London from Mr Farmer & of his security. I saw the array of antagonism that was bearing upon him in his most vulnerable points — I am sorry for G.T. & disappointment — sorry that he did not gracefully refuse standing again for the T.H. & thus retain much respect & a desire to promote his interests in other walks in life but I believe the event one well, & wisely order for his benefit — In my last letter to Mrs G I spoke freely about him.

To day we have been very busy planning about the "Advocate". There seems no chance of its being got out in London. Mr Farmer is not to be depended on, nor is he a desirable manager. My of friends I had collected in London, would not hear of its being got up out of that metropolis: but, unless some able parties come into the field it would ~~have~~ be sure to fail there. They are glad ✗ to avail themselves of my being in Dublin, ✗as they would have had no time to get the first No. ready in London, to have it printed under Mr. Webb's auspices; — but I so well know ~~that~~ the inefficiency of the London staff, that, as I am sure the anxiety & trouble of the affair, (as well as the expense which I have guaranteed) would devolve upon us, that I hope to make arrangements for Mr. W. being the continued printer & editor, — this will secure its being well done. All this however, you must consider private at present: Mr. Farmer wd. be greatly offended at the work being taken out of his hands, and though G. T. (tho' no dependence is to be placed on him,) wd. much prefer London's being the place of publication: — the question is, between having it done imperfectly, (probably not at all) in London, or well, & regularly done in Dublin?

I was very glad to hear of Emma again. I am the person to be exalted by the notice she favoured me with in London. Thank you for all the information you give me. Tho' unable to write more myself, I have induced others to to inclose a few lines.

As you are going away, it may not be a matter of any consequence; otherwise I should caution you against allowing Lane to be troublesome to you. He w'd not be so intentionally, but he has lived in an odd world for many years, — is not quite sane on all points, & hardly understands about the ways of the ordinary world. We are going to dine [illegible] at a regular Quaker ~~family~~ party at Mr. R. Chapman's, R & W's partner.

Mr. Allen called upon us, & offered to [illegible] a year for the "Advocate". I trust it will be in the paper on Monday—

With kindest regards to all your circle believe me, dear Mrs Weston,

Affect'ly Yours

J. B. Estlin

You need not apologize for not writing to me; I know how much you have to do in that way, — [illegible] and as I also know your regard, I shall not be pained at your silence.